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VOCATIONAL TASKFORCE NEWS

The Vocational Taskforce held its quarterly meeting Aug. 16-17 in Louisville, Ky.

The taskforce judged entries and announced winners in the second-annual Vocational Skills Training (VST) Competition.

The taskforce discussed issues facing centers such as TAR revisions, Present for Duty Off Center (PDOF) status and Work-based Learning (WBL).

Sharon Murphy from McConnell Jones Lanier & Murphy, LLP, gave a certification and credentialing update from the National Office. The National Office is reviewing current programs to help ensure students are prepared for high-growth and emerging occupations.

Carrie Kirkpatrick from McConnell Jones Lanier & Murphy, LLP, discussed proposed improvements to the Job Corps Career Development Resource Center (JCCDRC) Web site, www.jcdrc.org, to make it more useful for vocational managers and instructors.

Connie Painter and representatives from the Appalachian Council discussed their partnership with Job Corps and job opportunities available for graduates.

The next meeting will be held this winter in Baltimore.

The taskforce was created to gather information on vocational issues, linkages, job placements and vocational assessments throughout CDSS. Recently the committee has focused on TAR revisions to assure that students have the necessary skills to meet entry-level requirements. All Philadelphia Region operators and interagency partners are represented in the work group.

MUHLENBERG FACILITIES MAINTENANCE STUDENT BUILDS CAREER

Student Applies Job Corps Experience To Construction Job

Job Corps graduate and member of the Muhlenberg Career Development Center's winning vocational competition team, Robert Blackwell is hammering away at his job with Moore Construction Company in Clarksville, Tenn.

Blackwell, 22, came to the Kentucky Job Corps center to improve his skills and and land a higher-paying job after learning that he was about to become a father. While on center, he received his high school diploma and completed the facilities maintenance program. Today, he is providing for his family and makes \$9 an hour with the opportunity to earn \$15 an hour as a manager.

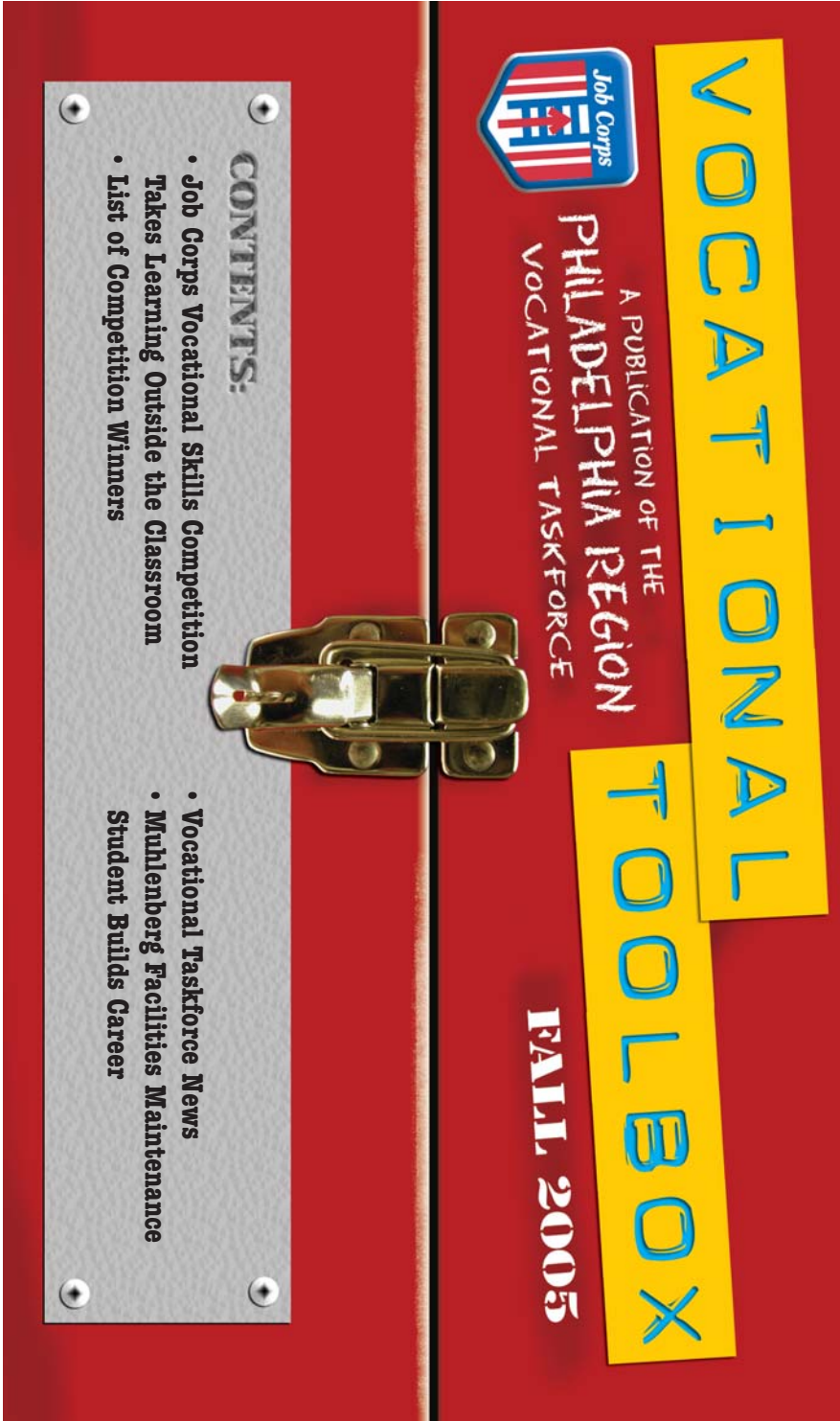
"It was hard work, but the team was very enthusiastic."

– Robert Blackwell,
Job Corps graduate

Blackwell was one of 40 students to build the 1950s-style Student Government Association store and snack bar on center. Blackwell's responsibilities included building a stud wall, electrical wiring, and sheetrock, ceiling and lighting installation.

"We took everything out and started from the floor up. It was pretty cool," he said. "It was hard work, but the team was very enthusiastic."

Blackwell said Job Corps taught him a strong work ethic, valuable skill sets, and how to use the tools needed on the job.



Job Corps Vocational Skills Training **COMPETITION** Takes Learning Outside the Classroom

Students Apply Learned Skills and Improve Their Surroundings

PHILADELPHIA - A community playground, basketball court and '50s-style snack bar were just a few of the winning entries from the Philadelphia Region's second annual Vocational Skills Training Competition.

Students from 11 of the region's centers stepped up to the challenge by creating projects to enhance their centers and local communities.

The regional office established the competition last year to give vocational students an opportunity to showcase their skills, make a difference on center or in their local communities and boost student morale and retention.

"The students who participated in the 2005 Vocational Skills Training Competition did outstanding work on center and in the community," said Lynn Intrepidi, Job Corps'

Philadelphia Region Director. "The craftsmanship and skills they have attained from Job Corps shined through their community and center projects. This competition reinforces what Job Corps is all about: learning new skills, having a strong work ethic and growing as an individual."

First-place winners in both categories will receive \$15,000 to purchase vocational equipment. Second-place winners will receive \$10,000, and the third-place winners will receive \$5,000.

The community-based entries were rated in three areas: the extent to which the project

enhanced the appearance of the community or the lives of community members; the quality of the project/workmanship, including design, craftsmanship and professionalism; and the variety of skills/competencies utilized in the project.

The center-based entries were rated in three areas: the extent to which the project enhanced students' lives at the center or improved the overall appearance/functionality of the center facility; the quality of the project/workmanship, including design, craftsmanship, neatness and professionalism; and the variety of skills/competencies utilized in the project.

The participating centers demonstrated a variety of skills in each project. For example, students laid concrete and electrical wiring, tiled and carpeted floors and utilized specialty carpentry, landscaping and plumbing skills.

Center-based Category

1st Place: Muhlenberg

Career Development Center

Greenville, Ky., Student Government Association
Store and Snack Bar



2nd Place: Frenchburg Job Corps Center

Frenchburg, Ky., Dorm III Wing Renovation

3rd Place: Pittsburgh Job Corps Center

Pittsburgh, Pa., Renovation of Men's Dorm



Community-based Category

1st Place: Woodstock Job Corps Center

Woodstock, Md., Community Playground

2nd Place: Great Onyx Job Corps Center

Mammoth Cave, Ky., Dog Creek Recreation
Area Handicap Sidewalk

3rd Place: Red Rock Job Corps Center

Lopez, Pa., Community Basketball
Court

